



PRINEVILLE RESERVOIR



Newsbrief #5

November 2002

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**OREGON PARKS & RECREATION
MASTER PLAN**

Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to be Released

This is the fifth Newsbrief prepared as part of the Prineville Reservoir Resource Management Plan/Master Plan (RMP/MP) effort. This issue announces the availability of the Prineville Reservoir RMP Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) document, scheduled for printing and distribution in November 2002. As explained in this Newsbrief, the Draft EA is being released for a 60-day public review period. To facilitate public involvement in the process, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD) are hosting a public meeting/workshop in Prineville (see page 4).

RMP Development and Summary of Issues

Reclamation and OPRD are preparing the Prineville Reservoir RMP/MP to continue managing resources, facilities, and access on Reclamation lands and waters. The RMP/MP will serve as a blueprint for the future use, management, and site development of Reclamation lands and resources at the reservoir for the next 10 years. While the RMP planning period is for the next 10 years, the Master Plan projects needs for the next 25 years, allowing for a phased approach to recreation site development. Reservoir operations are not part of the RMP and are not considered in this Draft EA.

The RMP/MP addresses all activities occurring on Reclamation lands surrounding Prineville Reservoir. Reclamation and OPRD identified several issues that need to be addressed by the RMP/MP. These issues were

presented to the general public, and the list was expanded through Ad Hoc Work Group (stakeholder) input. A summary list of the primary issues follows:

- Quantity and quality of recreation use to provide at Prineville Reservoir to meet increasing demand.
- Conflicts between recreation use and wildlife habitat.
- Conflicts among recreation users, especially motorized versus non-motorized.
- Grazing management.
- Juniper management.
- Protection and conservation of important or sensitive resources, such as wildlife, fisheries, wetlands, riparian vegetation, and cultural resources.
- Vegetation management and weed control.
- Coordination with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) regarding management of the Prineville State Wildlife Area (SWA).
- Protection of winter range for deer and elk management.
- Avoidance of recreation conflicts with wintering deer.
- Additional or expanded boat ramps, docks, and associated facilities.
- Improved access to reservoir/recreation sites.
- Trespass and requests for private land access.
- Impacts of motorized vehicles, such as off-road vehicles (ORVs).
- Hunting and fishing opportunities.
- Water quality and erosion control.
- Cultural resource protection.
- Scenic viewshed quality.
- Health and sanitation.
- Law enforcement.

Overview of the Draft EA Alternatives

The Draft Environmental Assessment was prepared in accordance with the Federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The document's primary purpose is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with a proposed Federal action – in this case, implementing the RMP/MP. In accordance with NEPA, Reclamation has examined a range of alternatives to

implement the RMP/MP: the No Action Alternative (also called Alternative A), Alternative B, and Alternative C (the Preferred Alternative).

Preliminary versions of the three alternatives were presented to the public approximately one year ago at a public meeting/workshop held in Prineville. Public input received at

Overview of the Draft EA Alternatives (continued)

Copies of this Newsbrief have been sent to all members of the official RMP/MP mailing list, which currently includes more than 350 addresses. Due to the printing costs of the Draft EA document (which is over 220 pages long, plus appendices), the Draft EA is not being mailed to everyone on the mailing list.

Copies of the Draft EA are available for public review at several convenient, publicly accessible locations, as listed on page 3 of this Newsbrief. If you would like either a printed or digital copy of the Draft EA document sent directly to your address, please fill out the information on this Order Form.

Request Order Form

that meeting, as well as input from the Ad Hoc Work Group, helped shape the Preferred Alternative as presented in the Draft EA.

Each of these alternatives is summarized below. Detailed, site-specific information on all of the alternatives, as well as a comparison of the alternatives, is presented in the Draft EA.

Alternative A: No Action - Continuation of Existing Management Practices. Management would be conducted according to the priorities and projects proposed in the 1992 RMP. Reclamation would continue to adhere to all applicable Federal laws, regulations, and executive orders, including those enacted since the 1992 RMP was adopted. Many of the actions in the 1992 RMP have been implemented, while in some cases they have not because of Reclamation policy changes, lack of a cost-share partner, or other factors that have changed management priorities. Issues and concerns not previously addressed or included in the 1992 RMP would be dealt with on an ad hoc basis.

Alternative B: Natural Resource/Dispersed Recreation Balance. This alternative would allow for a balance between natural resource protection and dispersed recreation through formalization of camping areas with provisions for some continued dispersed camp-

ing. This alternative proposes to maintain all designated recreation facilities in the SWA in their existing condition. On the other hand, most existing recreation sites in the North Shore area outside of the SWA would be modified to accommodate current and future demand and use. Alternative B would implement management actions to increase the protection and enhancement of native fish and wildlife and their habitat, although not to the level proposed under Alternative C. These would include strategies to better control noxious weeds, monitor and address erosion concerns, enhance buffers and control access within riparian areas and wetlands, and continue to protect both Federal Threatened & Endangered (T&E) and State designated species of special concern.

Alternative C (Preferred Alternative): Natural Resource Protection/Formal Recreation Emphasis. In this alternative, emphasis is placed on formalizing camping and water access, particularly on the south shore of the reservoir, to reduce the continued widespread disturbance of vegetation by dense dispersed camping and an informal road network. Alternative C allows for the highest level of protection and enhancement for natural and cultural resources while proposing the most formalized development scenario for recreation, often as a measure to focus

To obtain a copy of the Draft EA

Fill out this form and mail to:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
PN Regional Office
Attn: Vicki Kellerman-PN-3906
1150 North Curtis Rd, Suite 100
Boise, ID 83706-1234

This request can also be e-mailed to us using the "Contact Us" form at the Prineville Reservoir RMP website - www.pn.usbr.gov

- ☐ Please send me a printed copy of the Draft EA document; my address is listed below.

OR

- ☐ Please send me a digital copy of the Draft EA document (on CD-ROM, IBM Compatible); my address is listed below.

and

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recreation use areas to protect natural resources. This alternative proposes improving all recreation facilities in the SWA by providing trailheads and trail connections, boat moorage, courtesy docks, as well as requiring camper registration. Existing recreation sites in the North Shore area outside of the SWA would be modified to a greater extent than in Alternative B to better accommodate current and future demand and use.

Please print clearly:

your name and address, including the zip code

Where to Find the Draft EA Document

Copies of the Draft EA document are being sent to several places where the public can review them. Locations were chosen for their convenience and public accessibility. If you would prefer to request that a digital or paper copy of the Draft EA document be mailed directly to you, use the Request Order Form on page 2 of this Newsbrief. Copies of the Draft EA are available at the following locations:

City of Prineville Library
200 East Second
Prineville, OR

Deschutes County Library
601 NW Wall Street
Bend, OR

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Columbia Field Office
1375 SE Wilson Ave., Suite 200
Bend, OR

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Columbia Area Office
825 Multnomah Street
Portland, OR

The Draft EA document will also be available electronically (in pdf format) by November 13, 2002. Please access Reclamation's website at www.pn.usbr.gov and follow the links to the Prineville Reservoir RMP to access the document electronically.

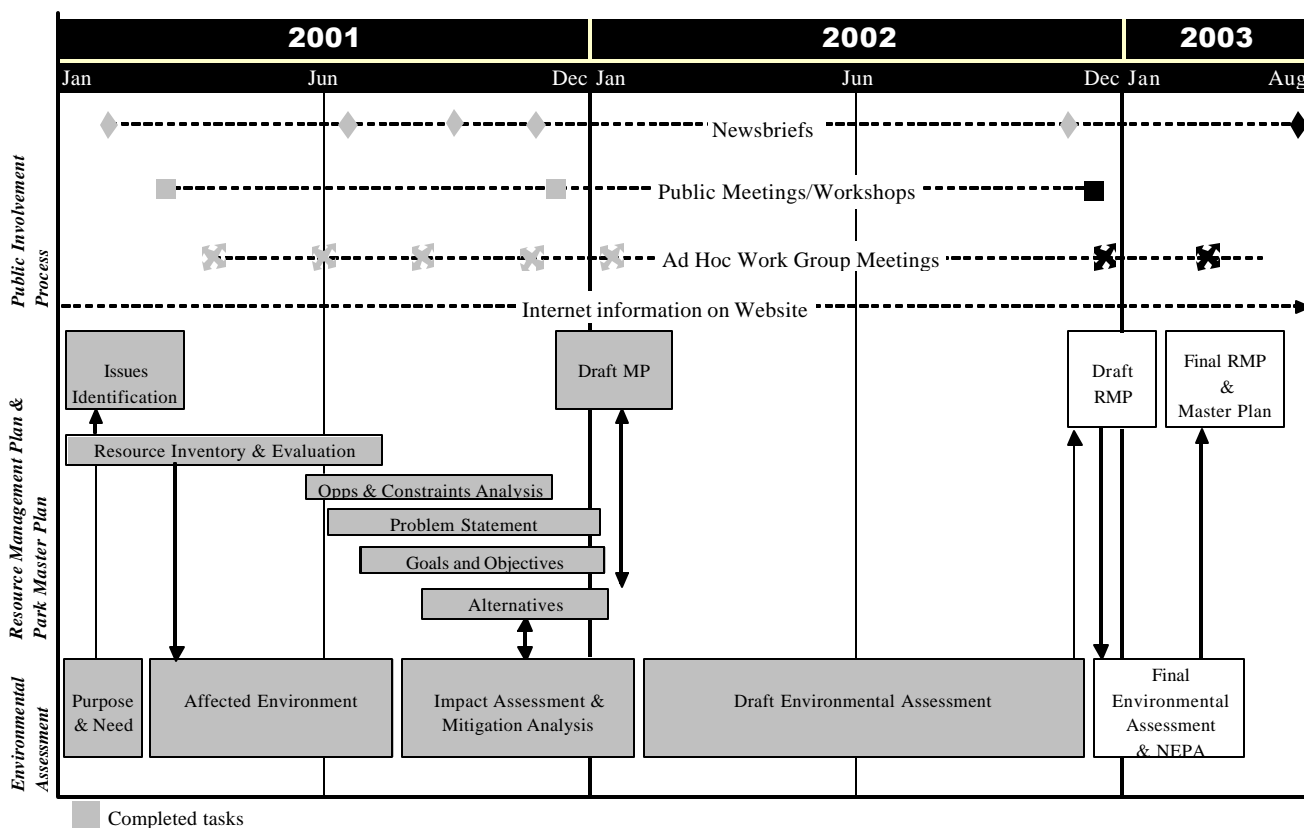
Incorporating Public Input into the Alternatives Development

As mentioned above, public comment on the preliminary alternatives helped Reclamation shape the Preferred Alternative. The initial alternatives were developed earlier in the planning process, and subsequently presented in draft form to the public at the meeting held in November 2001. This meeting took on a "workshop" format, and Reclamation gathered detailed input on the public's reactions to specific issues. This site- and issue-specific input was captured on a matrix that displayed both qualitative data (such as the nature of the issue), as well as quantitative data (such as the number of people that felt strongly either way about a particular issue). Public reactions were assessed for the No Action Alternative, as well as the two initial action alternatives (that is, Alternatives B and C). The matrix proved to be a very useful tool for comparing the relative importance of particular issues, as well as highlighting

differences among the three alternatives. Reclamation then presented the data gathered during the public input process to the Ad Hoc Work Group. Using the same matrix approach, members of the Ad Hoc Work Group rated and assessed the key issues. In addition to providing input on the alternatives development process, the Ad Hoc Work Group has met a total of five times over the course of the planning process, providing Reclamation valuable input into all aspects of the RMP/MP. The Ad Hoc Work Group will meet two more times – in December 2002 to review public comments on the Draft EA, and in March 2003 to provide input into the final plan.

Based on input from the general public, the Ad Hoc Work Group, and the Planning Team, Reclamation developed the Preferred Alternative, as presented in the Draft EA.

Schedule & Workplan



Public Meeting/Workshop to Take Comments on the Draft EA

After the Draft EA is issued, Reclamation encourages you to comment on its contents, particularly the alternatives presented. Reclamation will consider public comment on this draft before choosing a proposed plan of action, which will be incorporated into the RMP in early 2003. To encourage public participation in the review of the Draft EA, Reclamation is holding a public meeting. The meeting will begin with an informative presentation summarizing the contents of the document. After the presentation, an informal workshop will be held to facilitate issue-specific examination of the Draft EA and to encourage one-on-one dialog. Written comments will also be accepted at this time.

The official public comment period on the Draft EA is 60 days following the release of the document: November 12, 2002 through January 10, 2003. In addition to providing verbal comments at the public meeting, Reclamation invites you to submit written comments at any time during the official public comment period. All written comments received should be postmarked no later than January 10, 2003. Written comments can be submitted to:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
PN Regional Office
Attn: Vicki Kellerman-PN-3906
1150 North Curtis Rd, Suite 100
Boise, ID 83706-1234

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The location, date, and time of the public meeting are listed below.

When: November 21, 2002
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Where: Crook County Fairgrounds
Cary Foster Hall
590 SE Lynn Blvd.
Prineville, OR

This location was selected in part because of the facility's accessibility to people with disabilities. Interested persons needing special services should contact Connie Wensman, Regional Office Accessibility Coordinator, at (208) 378-5317 at least one week in advance so arrangements can be made.
TTYTDD# 1-800-833-6388.



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